

# 116 YHA Hawkshead Tarn Hows



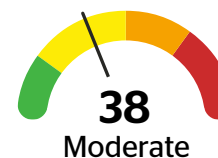
Scan to view this route on the OS Maps app

## Lake, countryside and village walk

**Distance:** 7.2 miles (11.5 km) **Ascent:** 327m **Time:** Allow 3h 30m to 5h 30m

**Map:** OS Explorer 1:25k (OL07) English Lakes - South-eastern area

**Start/Finish:** OS Locate SD 354 966 **What3Words** ///frantic.handrail.indulgent



This walk heads to Tarn Hows before passing through picturesque Hawkshead. From the hostel turn left along the road to Howe Farm then across a field and follow the path to Hawkshead Hill via Walker Ground. Follow the road uphill to find the footpath that runs adjacent to the road. After another short section of road take the path to the western side of the tarn to join the Cumbria Way for a moment. Leave via the path at the north end of the tarn, and follow the track downhill to towards Knipe Fold. Follow Skinner How Lane and pass through Hawkshead back to the hostel.

## Hazards

Caution required on the road sections. No pavements alongside the road between the hostel and Howe Farm (400m) and between the recreation ground on the edge of Hawkshead and the hostel (1.1km)

## Accessibility

The route includes stiles and steps. All gates are at least one metre wide, the path is narrower than one metre in places. The terrain includes road, good track and sections of rough ground with ruts or stones exceeding 10cm. There is a Miles Without Stiles route around Tarn Hows (3km with some sections steeper than 1:10) beginning from the Tarn Hows car park.

## Points of interest

Tarn Hows is a Site of Special Scientific Interest, formed by a dam built in 1865. Hawkshead is an ancient village with many historical buildings, including Hawkshead Church and the Courthouse. Also, look out for Dolly's Community Orchard.

## Facilities

Drinks sometimes available at Hawkshead Baptist church on Hawkshead Hill. Toilets available in the Tarn Hows carpark. Food, toilets and shops available in Hawkshead.

This route has been created by YHA to provide inspiration and to aid planning and preparation of your walk. It doesn't replace the need for a map or the OS Maps app to navigate your walk safely.



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Route: Walks Around Britain (adapted) & Alan Platt



Thank you for choosing to walk from our hostel.  
We hope you have a great time.

Walking in the national landscapes of England and Wales is part of YHA's heritage. With hostels on National Trails, in National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, YHA plays a unique role in the nation's walking community.

To make it easy for everyone to enjoy walking from YHA hostels, we have curated three walks – an easy, moderate, and more challenging option. They have all been graded – the higher the grade, the more challenging the route.

### Before you go:

- Check the weather forecast ([metoffice.gov.uk](http://metoffice.gov.uk)).
- Check the tide times for coastal routes ([tidetimes.org.uk](http://tidetimes.org.uk)).
- Get the right clothing, footwear and kit for the route and weather.
- Ensure you have enough time to complete the route before dark.
- Download the OS Locate or What Three Words apps to your phone.
- Contact 999 by SMS text (must pre register by texting 'register' to 999) ([relayuk.bt.com/emergencysms](http://relayuk.bt.com/emergencysms)).
- Tell someone where you are going and the latest time you expect to return. Give them your phone number and details of your group. (Remember to tell them when you have returned).
- Ensure your entire group have the fitness and skills to complete the route.

For more information please go to [www.yha.org.uk/walks](http://www.yha.org.uk/walks)

Share your walks at [#yhawalks](https://twitter.com/yhawalks)



Scan to shop for OS maps online  
[osmaps.com/yha](http://osmaps.com/yha)

## What to wear

- Base layer and mid layer.
- Walking trousers.
- Warm jacket(s).
- Take extra layer(s).
- Hat, gloves and neck gaiter.
- Sun hat, sun cream and sunglasses.
- Waterproof jacket and trousers.
- Cushioning walking socks.
- Walking shoes or boots.
- Bivi bag or group shelter.
- Spare food and hot drink.
- Duct tape (handy for fixing things).
- Penknife or multitool.
- Tissues and hand sanitiser.
- Plastic bags to take away your rubbish or dog poo.

## Kit

- Map, compass and GPS device or OS Map app on your phone.
- Water, lunch and high energy snacks.
- Charged mobile phone and portable charger.
- First aid kit.
- Head torch, spare batteries.
- Watch.
- Whistle and survival bag.
- Rucksack, with waterproof cover or a dry bag or plastic bag inside.
- Medicines or toiletries you would usually use.

## You might also want to take

- Spare socks, hat, gloves.
- Balaclava.
- Leg gaiters.
- Waterproof baseball cap (handy if you wear glasses).
- Walking poles.

## In case of emergency

- Call 999 (or text 999 if pre-registered) and ask for the Police.
- Use OS Locate or What3Words to provide a detailed description of your location.
- If you need to attract attention shout or give six blasts on a whistle at regular intervals. In low light flash your torch six times at regular intervals.
- If you can send someone for help, they need to know your location (grid reference), number of people in the group and the nature of the emergency.
- Help could be some time coming so whilst waiting make the casualty comfortable.
- Keep the casualty warm and dry using spare clothing. Use coats or rucksacks to insulate them from the ground.
- Remember the rest of the group could be getting cold whilst waiting. Use an emergency shelter or find a sheltered location.